

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 4, 2004  
6 to 9 p.m.  
Broomfield Senior/Recreation Center, Lakeshore Room 2  
Broomfield, Colorado**

Board Chair Victor Holm called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Erin Hamby, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Mike Maus, Bill McNeill, Andrew Ross, Phil Tomlinson / John Rampe (DOE-RFPO), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Mark Sattelberg (USFWS),

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Suzanne Allen / Joe Legare (DOE-RFPO), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM), Mark Aguilar (EPA).

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Chris Gilbreath (Kaiser-Hill), Randy Leitner (Kaiser-Hill), Alan Trenary (Westminster resident), Ralph Stephens (Denver), James Horan (Denver), Rob Henneke (EPA), David Abelson (RFCLOG) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

**PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:**

**Public Comment:**

**David Abelson:** David, the Executive Director of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments (the Coalition), spoke first of his organization's efforts to become the future Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO). Currently, the Coalition is looking for ways to work with CAB and others in the community, such as Rocky Flats retirees and future site users, to develop a scope, mission and purpose for the LSO. David has prepared a set of initial ideas on the scope and mission of the LSO for which he is seeking feedback. Once these issues are discussed, he then believes the community can start discussing the composition of the LSO.

David next spoke about the independent review of the Independent Validation and Verification (IVV) of Rocky Flats cleanup. He stressed that the Coalition has no desire to be the focus for public involvement during the review. The Coalition has formed its own committee to work on the independent review and will seek to hire an outside consultant to assist them. He welcomes any efforts by the CAB to take the lead in greater public involvement in the IVV for Rocky Flats.

**New Business:**

CAB Chair Victor Holm reported on a recent meeting with representatives of Senator Allard's office and from the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss the future LSO. The meeting included himself, Ken Korkia, David Abelson and Kimberly Lohr, also with the Coalition. Victor stated that the Congressional representatives have heard the message that the community wants broader participation in the future LSO, and that they don't believe the language establishing the LSO precludes participation outside of local government representatives. Victor stated he believes they do not want to fund two separate groups in the future.

David responded that the LSO language approved by Congress was an attempt to preserve local government involvement because funding for the Community Reuse Organization, which includes the Coalition, is going away. Thus, there would be a natural transition from the CROs to the LSOs. Victor replied that there are three CROs, with the other two being at the Mound and Fernald sites in Ohio. Each of these sites is different and will likely have different needs and desires in establishing a future LSO.

**ADMIN RECORD**

SW-A-005405

Board member Earl Gunia expressed concern with the Coalition becoming the LSO, in that there won't be room for citizen representatives. Victor and David responded that although the Coalition's current structure doesn't allow for "citizens" to be a part and vote, there are other models such as the former Rocky Flats Local Impact Initiatives, which was the original CRO for Rocky Flats that did include citizens and other non-elected officials. Victor also raised the former Rocky Flats Radionuclide Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel as an example of how elected and non-elected persons could serve jointly on an organization. David reiterated it is the Coalition's desire to have substantive engagement by non-elected officials on the LSO, and that they are looking at the legal mechanisms that would allow it.

A question was raised about the scope of the LSO. It was stated that beyond cleanup and stewardship issues, wildlife refuge management may be an important work scope topic for the LSO. David stated that they are looking at involving groups and individuals who traditionally have not been involved with Rocky Flats as a means to ensure that people will remain engaged with the site over the long-term.

In addressing the topic of funding for the LSO, David stated that the Coalition will be without a funding source in 2005, and that even though money has been authorized for the LSOs, it has not been appropriated. Ken Korkia asked about the Coalition's carryover reserve funding. David reported that they have over \$200K that includes funds they never used from a grant they received from Kaiser-Hill at their inception (about \$100K) and \$133K they received from their predecessor organization, the Rocky Flats Local Impacts Initiative. They also are likely to have funding left over from their 2004 budget.

A point was next raised that it is only Senator Allard that is pushing for LSO funding. It does not appear that the Ohio representatives are engaged in this matter.

Board discussion began on how it should become involved in the discussions on developing the future LSO. It was decided that the Board will continue its discussion of the future LSO at its Committee Night on November 18.

In other new business items, member Earl Gunia first thanked DOE for its response to the Board's request to provide an update on where its recommendations to DOE stood.

Earl next asked whether the Board would be providing a response to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on its Public Health Assessment for Rocky Flats. Victor Holm suggested that DOE has raised the need for ATSDR to look at areas within the site boundary, as the current report only looks at offsite exposures. John Rampe with DOE added that they are mainly asking for ATSDR to look at the areas that will be turned over to the refuge.

As for the Board making an official response to ATSDR, it was decided that because of the technical nature of the report, the Board did not have the expertise to provide formal comments. Some members have submitted individual comments, however. It was noted that the Board did send a thank-you letter to Michael Brooks with ATSDR after he spoke at the September Board meeting. Member Erin Hamby distributed a copy of the comments prepared by the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center on the health assessment.

Earl Gunia next asked Ken Korkia to read into the record a letter from former member Bill Peterson who thanked the Board for its continued diligence and efforts related to Rocky Flats cleanup and transition to become a refuge.

In final new business items, Ken Korkia reported that Initiative 297 in Washington State passed. This initiative, which goes into effect in thirty days, will prohibit any further importation of nuclear wastes for disposal at the Hanford site until such time as the cleanup of the Hanford site is complete. The prohibition could affect some waste materials connected with Rocky Flats that are currently being sent to Texas for treatment and interim storage. The Initiative should not have an

impact on Rocky Flats unless something happens with the interim storage solution at the Texas facility.

Ken next asked the Board its desires on a date for the January meeting. It was decided to keep the date on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **BUILDING 371 DEMOLITION:**

Chris Gilbreath gave a presentation on the Building 371/374 demolition plan. Last year, project managers believed they would have to use explosives to take the building down because the building was so robust. But now, using lessons learned from other contaminated buildings, they are planning to take it down with more conventional techniques.

Chris said B371 will be the last plutonium building on the site before it is demolished next year. The 365,000 square-foot building is four stories, having a subbasement, a basement, a main floor and an attic.

The most significantly contaminated portions of the building are the "canyons" – rooms on the main floor where plutonium operations took place. The canyons will have to be removed in the last of five demolition phases and shipped off as low-level waste.

Chris said the primary commitment to stakeholders was that they would not blow up a building that had contamination above the free-release standard. It will be technically impossible to decontaminate B371 to that standard. Chris said using explosives in the building would have meant an enormous amount of work and extensive preparation. He said the building is being decontaminated with the use of mechanical shaving.

Chris said Phase I will entail the demolition of B374, which is expected to begin in February. Phases II, expected to begin in March or April, will be the demolition of the support area to the west of the main building. Phase II will begin in April or May and involve the south support area and the removal of the south office and locker rooms. All of the areas involved in Phase I through III are relatively clean, Chris said. Phase IV of the plan is to take down portions of the structure that are being decontaminated to free-release standards.

The plan of attack for the portion of the building that is above the basement and subbasement is to take a "bottom up" approach, Chris said. The subbasement will be filled with dirt and cement, which Chris called "flowable fill." The basement will be treated in the same way. The canyon rooms on the main floor will then be cut up, but instead of falling into the floor below, the rooms will rest on the fill in the basement below. They will then be able to pick up the chunks of contaminated blocks and put them in containers for off-site shipment. Chris said it may take as much as 200,000 cubic yards of dirt and flowable fill. Chris, who was project manager for the demolition of B771, said they used this type of demolition on B771 successfully and safely.

In answer to a question, Chris said the structure will be removed to 3 ½ feet of final grade. Contamination left in the basement and subbasement will be less than 7 nanocuries per gram (nCi/g) or 7,000 picocuries per gram (pCi/g).

Chris said that the demolition of B371 would involve some of the most experienced and best staff onsite.

An audience member said that he had heard there had been more accidents in Building 371 and asked if he could get statistics on it. Chris said he would distribute the telephone number of the appropriate person in the safety division to the CAB and the audience member. The audience member also said he had also heard that workers were not getting the kind of training they needed to do the job properly. Chris conceded that some workers coming in were new but that it was not true that they were not getting the proper training. He said the training is more regulated and rigid than anywhere else and it takes people time to get used to the rigidity of the rules and regulations. He said there are minor growing pains in training new workers.

A Board Member asked whether the work in one phase would interfere with another. The Board Member was concerned that decontamination efforts, for instance, would spread into areas of demolition, making it unsafe for

demo workers or that the demolition could compromise the structures where decontamination work is taking place. Chris said there are isolation procedures that are put in place and that the procedures and status of the work are evaluated every day.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005:**

One nomination was received for each of the Board's offices. They included Jerry DePoorter for Chair, Joe Downey for Vice-Chair, Bill Kossack for Secretary, and Andrew Ross for Treasurer. With no further nominations, the Board approved the 2005 officers by acclamation.

#### **INDEPENDENT VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION (IVV) OF ROCKY FLATS CLENAUP:**

Victor Holm started the discussion by noting that the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments had formed its own committee to look at the scope of an independent evaluation of the IVV. He stated that the Coalition will hire its own consultant to assist them in understanding and reviewing the IVV process. Victor then asked the Board how it will become involved. This involvement takes two fronts: 1) how the Board itself will engage with the IVV review, and 2) how the Board views participation by the broader public.

Earl Gunia noted that member Phil Tomlinson has extensive quality assurance background and would be an ideal candidate to be the Board's own technical reviewer to examine the IVV. Member Jerry DePoorter agreed. Erin Hamby noted that it would be good for Phil to work with whatever consultant is hired by the Coalition. She also pointed out that there needs to be a public involvement process that would include night meetings where the public could attend. Member Mike Maus raised a concern about past efforts by the Board to involve the greater public and how the public did not respond. It was suggested that meetings sponsored directly by DOE have a greater rate of participation.

Discussion next turned to the scope of the IVV. Victor Holm asked whether the Board was comfortable with the current scope only including surface soils. He noted other possibilities include subsurface soil and groundwater. With respect to groundwater, discussion centered mainly on the timing. Members generally agreed that the opportune time to look at groundwater would be after the site puts its final treatment and monitoring system in place, wait for it to operate for awhile, and then look at the results. If groundwater was added to the current IVV scope, it would only be able to look at the current modeling efforts, which have already been carefully examined by some of the nation's foremost experts. It was also noted that the site's groundwater remediation plan will be released for public review by mid-December.

With respect to subsurface soil, some felt that without a direct route of exposure given the current wildlife refuge worker future use scenario, it may not be something that is necessary. David Abelson reported that the Coalition is still reviewing this issue by asking whether there is potential for subsurface contamination to someday reach the surface. Steve Gunderson with the state health department suggested the Board might wish to schedule a future presentation on subsurface sampling results.

The Board agreed it may be best to put off decisions about subsurface soil and groundwater until the IVV process starts and see where it leads.

In other discussion about the review scope, Earl Gunia asked whether the IVV being planned is really only verification and does not include validation. He sees verification as a process to confirm that Kaiser-Hill has done the work that is supposed to do, while validation is confirming that the site complies with the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement. He noted that the proposal prepared by ORISE, the contractor DOE has hired to do the IVV, only mentions verification. Other members responded that while that may appear to be the case, in essence confirming that Kaiser-Hill has done the work also confirms that the site complies with the cleanup agreement. It was also

pointed out that the state and EPA have the final responsibility to confirm the site has met the requirements of the cleanup agreement. John Rampe confirmed in response to a question that the IVV is not something required by CERCLA, but it is something extra DOE is doing to satisfy its own needs to oversee its contractor and to respond to public concern.

In concluding its discussion, the Board approved a motion to appoint Phil Tomlinson as its point person on the IVV. Phil will review the work as it is planned and implemented, and provide periodic updates to the Board. John Rampe will provide him the contacts he needs with ORISE.

Ken Korkia confirmed he will work with Karen Lutz, with DOE Communications, on developing a broader public participation plan for the IVV. He suggested that it take the form of a series of technical work sessions that could take place in the afternoon when the ORISE reviewers are in town. He also suggested that at least two broader evening public meetings be held while the review is underway. One meeting will occur at the review's inception to inform the public what is going to happen, while another meeting will be held at the end to present the results. Consideration may be given to progress meetings during the review if it is warranted. Ken also suggested that consideration be given to developing fact sheets and other information that could be posted on the website and handed out at meetings to help educate the public.

#### **PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Ken Korkia went over the proposed agenda topics for upcoming meetings. For the November 18 Committee Night, the main topic of discussion will be the future LSO. For the December 2 Board meeting, the featured presentation will be on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. This document is planned for release sometime in November. Another presentation will be on the Rocky Flats Public Participation Plan. Ken will invite Karen Lutz with DOE to present this plan she has developed. The Board will also consider any recommendations that might arise from its Committee Night discussion on the LSO. Finally, the Board will consider the proposed public involvement plan for the IVV review.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

*Date: December 2, 2004, 6 to 9:00 p.m.*

*Location: Broomfield Recreation Center, Lakeshore Room 2*

*Agenda:*

- *Presentation and Discussion on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge*
- *Presentation and Discussion on the Rocky Flats Public Involvement Plan*
- *Consideration of Recommendations on the Future Local Stakeholder Organization*
- *Consideration of Proposal for Public Involvement in the Independent Validation and Verification of Rocky Flats Cleanup*

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 p.m. \***

(\* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in the RFCAB office.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Bill Kossack, Secretary  
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

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The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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